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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]**; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **VAN SANTEN, Helmar [NL/NL]**; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: **DEGUELLE, Wilhelmus, H., G.**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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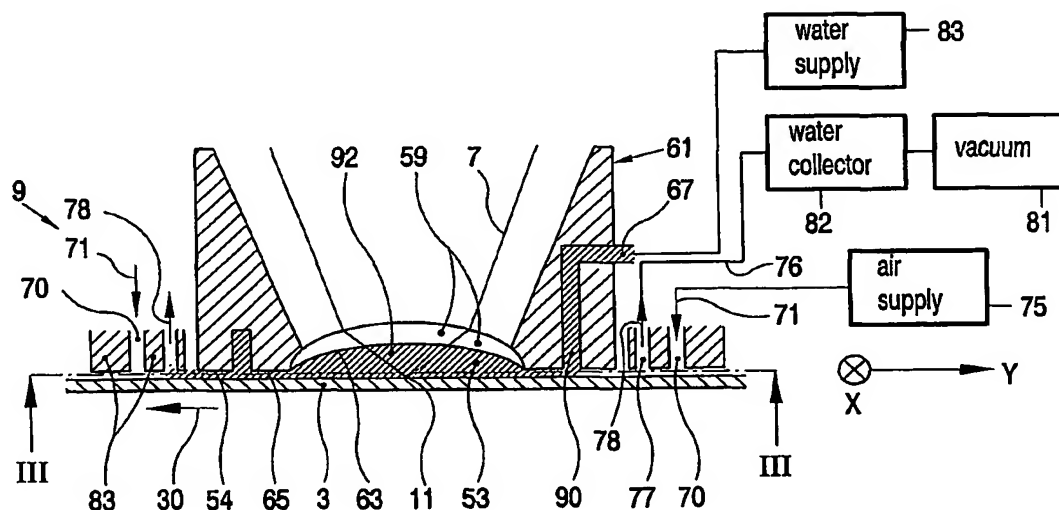
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LIQUID REMOVAL IN A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR IRRADIATING SPOTS ON A LAYER



(57) Abstract: For irradiating a layer (3) a radiation beam (7) is directed and focused to a spot (11) on the layer (3), relative movement of the layer (3) relative to the optical element (59) is caused so that, successively, different portions of the layer (3) are irradiated and an interspace (53) between a surface of the optical element (59) nearest to the layer (3) is maintained. Furthermore, at least a portion of the interspace (53) through which the radiation irradiates the spot (11) on the layer (3) is maintained filled with a liquid (91). By directing a gas flow (71-73) to a surface zone (74) of the layer (3), liquid (91) is reliably prevented from passing that surface zone (74), without causing damage to the layer (3). The liquid (91) is drawn away from the layer (3) in the vicinity of the surface zone (74).

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	the whole document	3-10
Y	JP 09 153233 A (SONY CORP) 10 June 1997 (1997-06-10)	1,2
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Kyranos, E

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 6 369 957 B1 (ISHIDA FUTOSHI) 9 April 2002 (2002-04-09) the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	1-10

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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